

The State Board of Education/State Board for Vocational Education held its regular meeting on Thursday, March 21, 2013, in the Cabinet Room of the John G. Townsend Building, Dover, Delaware.

Present were: Teri Quinn Gray, President; Gregory B. Coverdale, Jr., G. Patrick Heffernan, Barbara B. Rutt, Dr. Terry M. Whittaker and Mark T. Murphy, Executive Secretary and Secretary of Education. Donna R. Johnson, who serves as the State Board's Executive Director, was also present.

Also in attendance were Ilona Kirshon, Deputy Attorney General and legal counsel for the State Board of Education; David Blowman, Deputy Secretary of Education; Karen Field Rogers, Associate Secretary for Financial Reform and Resource Management; Mr. Michael Watson, Chief Academic Officer; and Dr. Susan Haberstroh, Associate Secretary, College and Workforce Readiness.

Attending portions of the meeting in conjunction with agenda items: Noreen LaSorsa, Christina School District; Merridith Murray, Christina School District; Gina Moody, Christina School District; Butch Ingram, Christina School District; Charlie Michels, Professional Standards Board (PSB); Alan Phillips, Sara Kerr, Atnre Alleyne, Mary Kate McLaughlin, John Carwell, Paula Fontello.

Also attending: Catherine Hickey, Deputy Attorney General; Deb Stevens, Delaware State Education Association (DSEA); Susan Francis, Delaware School Boards Association; Alina Wade, FBD; Amber Cooper, Budget Office; Cathy Owens Oliver, ETS; Melissa Hopkins, Rodel Foundation; Kendall Massett, Delaware Charter School Network; Bob Smith, Matt Albright, News Journal; and G. Scott Reihm, Delaware Association of School Administrators (DASA).

### **Call to Order**

President Gray presided over the monthly meeting and called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. She welcomed all guests to the State Board's monthly public meeting.

### **Approval of Agenda**

The first order of business was approval of the agenda. Dr. Gray noted that there were no changes to the agenda. A motion was made by Mr. Coverdale to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Whittaker and carried with the following vote recorded:

Ayes:

Nays:

Dr. Gray  
Mr. Coverdale  
Mr. Heffernan  
Mrs. Rutt  
Dr. Whittaker

### **Approval of Minutes**

#### Work Session, February 21, 2013

The Board received a copy of the work session minutes prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Dr. Whittaker to approve the minutes of the State Board work session held on February 21, 2013 as presented. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Rutt and carried with the following vote recorded:

Ayes:

Nays:

Dr. Gray  
Mr. Coverdale  
Mr. Heffernan  
Mrs. Rutt  
Dr. Whittaker

#### Regular Meeting- February 21, 2013

The Board received a copy of the regular meeting minutes prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Coverdale to approve the minutes of the State Board regular meeting held on February 21, 2013 as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Whittaker and carried with the following vote recorded:

Ayes:

Nays:

Dr. Gray  
Mr. Coverdale  
Mr. Heffernan  
Mrs. Rutt  
Dr. Whittaker

### **Formal Public Comment**

It was indicated that this was the time the Board set aside for formal public comment. President Gray announced that no individuals signed up to address the State Board.

## **State Board Business**

### **Committee Reports from State Board Members**

Mrs. Rutt attended the Delaware School Boards Association (DSBA) Annual Meeting where Joanne Christian, a former Appoquinimink School Board Member was honored. The guest speaker that evening was the president of the National School Boards Association. Mrs. Rutt also attended the DSBA Board of Directors meeting and clinic. The clinic featured a presentation on Common Core provided by the Department. Mrs. Rutt stated that the presentation was very well done and very well received. She also attended a meeting of the Gifted and Talent Task Force. Legislation has been introduced that would provide a two year grant opportunity to districts to expand their gifted and talented programs or begin new programs.

Mr. Heffernan attended one of the education policy series sponsored by the Rodel Foundation. He found it very interesting as it focused on personalized learning and provided the Board some of the examples that were mentioned. He also attended the open forum hosted by the Department to address potential changes to the Charter School law that provided a question and answer session and public comment. Mr. Heffernan also attended the Brandywine School District Special Needs PTA. The Department's Brian Touchette provided a presentation on grade band extensions for the Common Core. Mr. Heffernan stated that the presentation provided the specifics and how students with special needs have access to the same curriculum.

Ms. Johnson noted the items that were posted for information and review on eBoards. She stated that there were articles that focused and aligned with the four areas of the Board's strategic plan. Information of the Common Core Common Ground event was posted and distributed in the Board's mail folders.

Ms. Johnson was a participant in the Rodel Policy Institute. She attended the DSBA Annual meeting, assisted in several activities for the STEM Council, and attended the meeting of the Education Consortium meeting and several legislative sessions. Ms. Johnson highlighted her participation in the NASBE Legislative Conference and visits with the House and Senate education committee leaders. She and R.L. Hughes were included in a small group of attendees to meet with Secretary Duncan and discussed sequestration, ESEA reauthorization, and other education policy items.

Dr. Gray participated in many of the same activities but highlighted her tour of the Community Education Building that has been donated for public education as a location for charter schools. She also highlighted her trip to New York City for business and how eye opening it was to see how Google occupies one city block and its work environment.

### **Secretary's Report, Review and Discussion**

Secretary Murphy highlighted the strong foundation the Department is providing on Common Core. He noted that the first step was yearlong support for the districts and schools that just concluded, the professional development provided and providing districts on how to design their own professional development. The weekend event will be a kick off for Common Core support

with over 700 educators participating. Next week, participants will come back together to begin their action planning.

Mr. Murphy commented on a recent meeting he attended with other governing states of the Smarter Balanced consortium. He stated that Smarter Balanced is still on track in its process and design. Delaware schools are right now engaged in the Smarter Balanced state pilot. The pilot does not only test the items but also bandwidth and technology capabilities in our schools. Next year will be the field testing for the Smarter Balanced Assessment and the follow year it will be operational.

### **Christina School District Department of School Turnaround Presentation**

Christina Director of School Turnaround Noreen LaSorsa thanked the State Board for the opportunity to update them on the Partnership Zone Schools in her district: Bancroft Elementary, Glasgow High School and Stubbs Elementary.

Presenting for Bancroft Elementary was the instructional leader Harold “Butch” Ingram. He provided formative assessment data comparing Fall and Spring scores for 2010-2011, 2011-2012 and 2012-Spring, option 1, 2013. The school is 97% free and reduced lunch and 95% African-American students. He noted that there is growth even though the proficiency ratings are low. The school did experience a large staff turnover in 2012-2013 but there are initiatives taking place. The school offers a Saturday School for academics. The PD/Lion Walks is an opportunity for staff to collaborate and Bancroft PRIDE 365 focuses on community involvement. There was discussion by the Board on the increase in proficiency from third to fourth grade and the drop at Grade 5. There were also questions by the Board on the school’s culture and how the Saturday School students were selected.

Instructional leader Dr. Gina Moody provided formative assessment data for Glasgow High School. Of the 1038 students enrolled in the school, 50% are African American and 18% are Hispanic. She also stated that 20% of the school’s students are special education students. Initiatives that Glasgow has focused on include the PLC Structure where staff members meet to address student needs – academic and behavior. These are done using the academies that the school has developed for smaller learning communities. This allows teachers to co-plan and work on content and pedagogy. The school is also using a Response to Intervention Initiative in Literacy and Math where students who score a PL 1 or a PL2 are given extra instruction on their deficient skills. There was discussion by the Board on the school’s graduation rate and college enrollment figures. Ms. LaSorsa stated that the school participated in the Accuplacer pilot. Dr. Moody also explained the business partnerships the school has formed. Students in the pharmacy tech program have a partnership with Walgreens, the business department has partnerships with Junior Achievement and Del One and there are multiple partnerships for students in the culinary arts programs.

Merridith Murray, the instructional leader for Stubbs Elementary provided the formative assessment data for the school. The school enrollment is 363 and the school is growing. Of the students enrolled, 88.95% of the students are African American. She expressed her concern on Grade 5 data and has even looked at housing trends as students start school, leave and then return

later in following years. Initiatives at Stubbs include STEM-NASA Digital Learning, Techsteps thru Edvations and M & T Banking at the school. The NASA Digital Learning network has been very successful and spiked the students' interest and their parents'. Techsteps is a web-based program funded by the Gates Foundation and helps students with 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills. Barclays is partnering with the fifth grade students in the banking program and students receive a stipend for work done in the school and a financial literacy course. The initiatives are school-wide and all students have access.

## **College and Career Readiness Initiatives**

### Introduction of Chief Academic Officer

Secretary Murphy introduced Michael Watson, the Department's new Chief Academic Officer. He spoke on the search process for a person to drive college and career readiness. Mr. Watson comes to Delaware from Tunisia. He brings a great depth of knowledge to the table and values that college and career readiness is more than teaching and learning. Mr. Watson also has experience as a deputy chief academic officer, charter leader, principal and even an AP teacher. Dr. Gray welcomed Mr. Watson on behalf of the Board and noted that the Board is available to assist him as it can to be successful in this new role.

Mr. Watson commented that although he came here from Tunisia he was actually born in Delaware and spent many years in Newark. He noted that this is an opportunity for the Department to redefine the work it is doing with not only P-20 but Common Core. Secretary Murphy noted that the career and technical education work group and higher education are now combined into Mr. Watson's branch.

### Harvard Data Study – College Going Diagnostic Study

Sara Kerr, Chief Performance Officer for the Delivery Unit was joined by Atnre Alleyne to present the preliminary results of the diagnostic study conducted in partnership with the Strategic Data Project at Harvard University. Mr. Alleyne is a Harvard Strategic Data Fellow and has been at the Department since July. He will remain with Department for two years and Ms. Kerr highlighted some of the initiatives where he is assisting Delaware's work.

Mr. Alleyne provided a brief overview of the strategic data project. The mission is to transform the use of data in education to improve student achievement as the goal of performance diagnostics is to impact policy and management decisions. He asked the Board as it reviews the information and data to consider what other information or analyses may be needed to better understand the patterns and which results are noteworthy and which results are actionable. That information will help distinguish which areas need a deeper dive as well as possible interventions. The college-going diagnostic data is noted in four key areas, 9<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> grade transition, high school graduation, college enrollment and college persistence. Mr. Alleyne said that today's presentation will focus on the 9<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Transition. It will show if our students are or are not on track. The data showed that only 23% of tenth grade students who scored a Performance Level 3 scored a 500 or higher on the SAT math. For students in Performance Level 4, 82% scored a 500 or higher in the SAT math. Reading data was lower in

that only 10% of tenth graders in Performance Level 3 scored a 500 or higher on the SAT Reading and only 54% of students in Performance Level 4 scored a 500 or higher on the SAT Reading. The Board was presented with data from each high school on the percentage of students who meet the standards in math but have an SAT score lower than 500. The Board also received information by high school for on-time graduation rates. Data was shown on college enrollment by high school separated into four year schools, two year schools or delayed enrollment.

The diagnostic uses student-level data from the Department's data warehouse. There was discussion on what should schools focus on to have students perform better and how to test content in different ways. Ms. Kerr commented that with diagnostic data, you ask these types of questions like what to do to help students graduate on time.

The Board recessed from 3:10 p.m. to 3:25 p.m.

Dr. Gray noted the information posted on eBoards regarding College Application Week. The Board received a report on the program which was conducted at Smyrna High School and Lake Forest High School during the week of November 26<sup>th</sup>. The report showed the results and plans for expansion next year.

## **Department of Education**

### **540 Driver Education (For Action)**

Susan Haberstroh, Associate Secretary for College and Workforce Readiness, noted the proposed amendments to Regulation 540 were from Amendment 1 to House Bill 264 and addressed how many times a student with an IEP could take the drivers' education course and taking the course could be delayed until their junior or senior year.

Dr. Gray noted that the Secretary is seeking concurrence of the State Board to amend 14 DE Admin. Code 540 Driver Education to allow students with Individual Education Programs (IEPs) additional time to complete Driver Education pursuant to House Bill No. 264, as amended by House Amendment No. 1 of the 146<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. Additionally, changes were made to reflect the elimination of fees for driver education for nonpublic school students who are Delaware residents. A motion was made by Dr. Whittaker that based on the review of the record and consideration of the Secretary's approval, the Board concurs with the amendment to the Driver Education regulation as recommended by the Secretary. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coverdale and carried with the following vote recorded:

Ayes:

Nays:

Dr. Gray  
Mr. Coverdale  
Mr. Heffernan  
Mrs. Rutt  
Dr. Whittaker

The Board signed the appropriate Order.

## **Charter Schools**

John Carwell, Director of the Charter Schools Office, presented the charter school items.

### Update on Progress of New Applications and Modifications

Mr. Carwell noted that the four new applications were proceeding and the initial and preliminary meetings have been held for these applications. The four modifications have completed their preliminary meetings. As a result of the department's efforts regarding the Pencader revocation and the decision to prioritize their time to better support the needs of those parents and students these timelines for decisions and further action on the new applications are being revised.

### Update on Closure Preparations for Pencader Charter School

Mr. Carwell highlighted the information sessions that have been held for families of students who attend Pencader. The sessions included information on other schools and a FAQ has been developed. A hotline as well as an email account was available for inquiries. The Department contacted families of students individually that had not attended an information session to make sure they were aware of the options and process for enrolling their child in a new school for next school year. The Department continues to meet with the school on a monthly basis. The school staff will receive help on records, organization, and transferring records. There was discussion on the physical property at the school and it was suggested that the students that attended Pencader be tracked to ensure that there is a seamless process to a new school. The Department is planning a meeting with the Pencader staff regarding human resources items in mid April. The Board also discussed the lessons that have been learned from the Pencader closing.

### Charter Schools Update

Mr. Carwell highlighted the charter schools update listing. He stated that Reach Academy has satisfied its probationary conditions and the school will soon request removal from probation status. On Moyer, Mr. Carwell stated there were still some items that were requested to be submitted by the Moyer Board on December 1<sup>st</sup> and updates to those on March 1<sup>st</sup>. There are also items that continue to be out of compliance and we are working through these with them. Additionally, Moyer has submitted a major modification and the CSAC has held the initial and preliminary meetings in that process. Mr. Heffernan expressed that he every time we see state-wide data Moyer tends to be at the bottom of the list in terms of performance and it is important that we are doing everything we can and moving forward at the right speed to best address these concerns because time is of the essence for the sake of these students. Mr. Carwell expressed that there were a number of clear challenges moving forward for the school expressed at the modification meeting last week. There are additional milestones for Moyer to address items by the end of April and we will expect a capstone of these items at the end of this review. The Board expressed its concern for the students at Moyer and the need to provide those students with a great education and making sure everything is done for that to happen. Mr. Heffernan asked about the status of the Annual Charter report published by the Department, which last year

was published in January last year. Mr. Carwell said that they are compiling that report and using the performance framework to further guide that report's development. Mr. Heffernan asked that we establish a guideline and timeframe of when we would expect that each year. Dr. Gray asked for an update on the status of the performance reviews with each school and it was reported that these would resume after the charter application cycle completed.

### **Professional Standards Board**

Charles Michels, Executive Director of the Professional Standards Board, presented the PSB items on the agenda.

#### 1594 Special Education Director (For Action)

The Professional Standards Board, acting in cooperation and collaboration with the Department of Education, is seeking the consent of the State Board of Education to amend regulation DE Admin. Code 1594 Special Education Director. The regulation concerns the requirements for certification of educational personnel, pursuant to 14 Del.C. §1220(a). It is necessary to amend this regulation in order to upgrade the requirements' rigor and to build upon the other amended administrator regulations. This regulation sets forth the requirements for Special Education Director. Mr. Michels noted that comments were received from the Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens and the State Disabilities Council.

A motion was made by Mr. Heffernan to approve the amended Regulation 1594 Special Education Director, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coverdale and carried with a roll call vote recorded as follows:

Ayes:

Nays:

Dr. Gray  
Mr. Coverdale  
Mr. Heffernan  
Dr. Whittaker

Mrs. Rutt

The Board signed the appropriate Order.

### **Appeals and Reviews**

#### N.B. v. Smyrna School District Board of Education 2013-01

Ilona Kirshon, Deputy Attorney General and legal counsel for the State Board of Education noted that this appeal was received and provided the Board with an update.

### **Information Items**

Dr. Gray noted the information items listed on the Board's agenda.



## **Adjournment**

There be no further business, a motion was made by Dr. Whittaker to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Heffernan and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted;

Mark T. Murphy, Executive Secretary  
and Secretary of Education

An audio of the entire meeting is available on the State Board's website at: <http://www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/ddoe/sbe/default.shtml>